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Community Connections Award  
winners announced

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## Computer game hit maker gives \$1M to writer-in-residence program

Geoff McMaster

**C**reative writing might not seem the ideal training for designing computer games, but according to Jason Kapalka, co-creator of *Bejeweled* and *Plants vs. Zombies*, his years in the University of Alberta's English department had everything to do with his eventual success.

That's why he's decided to grow the endowment of the U of A's renowned writer-in-residence program with a \$1-million gift.

"Along with my experience volunteering at *The Gateway*, what I did in the creative writing program was the most memorable and useful at university," says the co-founder of Seattle-based PopCap Games, creator of some of the most wildly successful games in the world, inspiring some three billion hours of play.

"The writing courses were the ones I felt shaped me the most and gave me insight into what I wanted to do with my life."

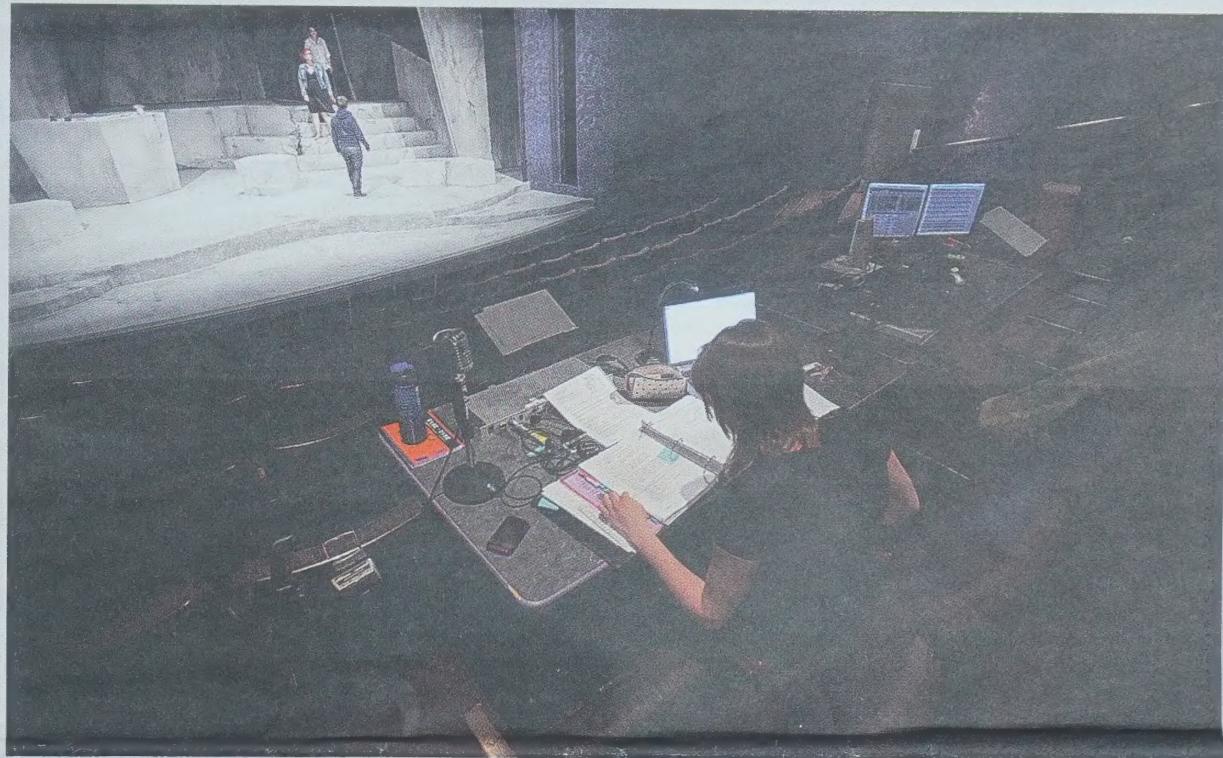
Susan Hamilton, chair of the Department of English and Film Studies, says a sustaining gift like Kapalka's allows the writer-in-residence program to reach and help people from Edmonton and surrounding communities. "The program has now—almost instantly—become one of the most attractive writing opportunities in the country."

Kapalka earned both bachelor's and master's degrees at the U of A in the early '90s, taking courses from the likes of Greg Hollingshead and Rudy Wiebe and dreaming of writing the next great Canadian novel. His genres of choice were fantasy, horror and science fiction.

After graduating, he parlayed his love of computer games into a freelance writing gig reviewing games for the San Francisco-based magazine *Computer Gaming World*. When one of the editors decided to start a dot-com company called Total Entertainment, he invited Kapalka down to help write editorial material for the games—a job that eventually evolved into designing his own original games.

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## Playing it by the book



Jessica Parr, stage manager for Studio Theatre's final 2012-13 production, "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot," runs through some last-minute preparations. For more, see The Back Page.

## University leaders to receive province's highest honour

Michael Brown

**O**ne of Alberta's highest honours will be bestowed on three leaders whose tireless contributions have advanced the province and the University of Alberta.

Doug Goss, Hon. Anne McLellan and Catherine Roozen are among eight Albertans set to join the ranks of the Alberta Order of Excellence this year in recognition of their diverse and long-standing contributions on the local, provincial, national and international stage.

"The Alberta Order of Excellence inductees for 2013 reflect the best traits the people of our province have to offer: innovation, determination and a deep-seeded commitment to serving others," said Alberta Lt.-Gov. Donald Ethell. "I know that their stories and their many contributions will serve to inspire their fellow Albertans now and in the future."

Goss, U of A board chair and an alumnus of the university, said he was honoured to share this award with good friends Cathy Roozen and Anne McLellan, the latter of whom was his constitutional law professor at the U of A and a "great mentor."

Goss, who received a business degree in 1981 and a law degree in 1984 from the U of A, has been widely acknowledged for his community service. Besides his leadership role with the U of A and many Alberta businesses, Goss has served on the board of the Hockey Canada Foundation and of B2ten, an organization dedicated to supporting Olympic athletes. He is a former board chair of the Edmonton Eskimos Football Club and of the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation, served in leadership roles with NAIT and the Capital Health Authority, and was chair of the 2003 Molson Canadian Heritage Hockey Classic and the 2010 Grey Cup.



(From left to right) Doug Goss, Anne McLellan and Catherine Roozen have been named as recipients of the Alberta Order of Excellence.

He added that being welcomed into the Alberta Order of Excellence was made possible with his decision to come to the U of A. "My education at the University of Alberta has been the foundation for everything I've been able to accomplish."

McLellan served four terms as the Liberal Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre between 1993 and 2006, which included a two-year stint as deputy prime minister starting in late 2003. Prior to her political career, McLellan was appointed associate professor of law at the U of A in 1980. She also served as associate dean of law between 1985 and 1987, and as acting dean for a year beginning in July 1991. In 2006 she was appointed Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the U of A in the Alberta Institute for American Studies. McLellan was awarded an honorary doctor of laws

*Continued on page 2*



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# folio

Volume 50 Issue 18

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# Creating new knowledge about an ancient Greek city

Laura Ly

You may not realize it, but how your living space is spatially organized says a lot about how you live. Margriet Haagsma, an archeologist and professor in the Department of History and Classics, studies ancient houses and households to create new knowledge about past civilizations. And as the director of the Kastro Kallithea project, Haagsma is creating a whole city's worth of new knowledge.

Kastro Kallithea was an ancient Greek city that was abandoned in the second century BC; now, it is a 32-hectare archeological site. Haagsma and her team are working to map and explore the city's architecture and artifacts, which have never been studied before. The ambitious project is a collaboration between the U of A and the Greek Archeological Service, and is also supported by the Canadian Institute in Greece.

Since the project's start in 2004, Haagsma's team has completed a survey of the entire city—logging thousands of artifacts such as coins, pottery and stone—and is now looking at specific areas to determine how the city was organized.

Haagsma specifically looks at how houses are architecturally articulated. "This can tell us a lot about the lifestyle and the relative wealth of these households, the relationship between men and women, the relationship between citizens and slaves, and the economic base of these households," she says.

The project is a large undertaking, and Haagsma recently received a 2013 McCalla Professorship from the university to complete the first stage. The McCalla provides teaching release to professors who successfully combine teaching, learning and research, and enables them to concentrate on research and creative projects. Haagsma will use her award to co-ordinate publication of a book about the findings from the site, and to write her own chapter about the city plan and Housing 10, a large house that was excavated. She also wants to hire some research assistants to assist with project administration.

## 2013-14 McCalla Professorships

Sylvie Quideau, Renewable Resources

Margriet Haagsma, History and Classics

Sadok El Ghoul, Campus Saint-Jean

Peter Popkowski Leszczyc, Marketing, Business Economics and Law

Charles Doran, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

The abstract of each McCalla Professorship recipient has been posted at  
[www.provost.ualberta.ca/en/AwardsandFunding/mccalla.aspx](http://www.provost.ualberta.ca/en/AwardsandFunding/mccalla.aspx)

## Alberta Order of Excellence

Continued from page 1

degree by the U of A in 2007. In 2009, she was appointed an officer of the Order of Canada.

Roozen, who graduated from the U of A business program in 1977, has lent her extensive experience in board governance and investment banking to a host of community groups including the Grey Nuns Hospital, Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society, the Alberta Cancer Board and the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute. She is currently vice-chair of the Alberta Health Services board and spent multiple terms on the U of A board of governors. She has also co-chaired U of A fundraising campaigns. In 2009, her alma mater awarded her with an honorary doctor of laws degree.

The lieutenant-governor of Alberta will preside over the investiture ceremony in Edmonton Oct. 16. ■



Margriet Haagsma is one of five 2013-14 McCalla recipients.

Spalding

settlement history in Alberta. "Why do people settle in areas that seem unsuitable for settling in the first place? If you compare the trajectories of the settlement process in far antiquity (fourth and third century BC) to Alberta in the beginning of the 20th century, it's not very different. There's a strong factor of positive thinking; people settle down in the hope that their lives get better."

The combination of intellectual work, handwork and teamwork is the biggest reward of being an archeologist, says Haagsma. "No one can predict what you can find. Synthesis and analysis of new and old data creates new knowledge. This process, done together with a whole group of other people, is extremely gratifying." ■

## Writing and video games a natural fit

Continued from page 1

"Usually, I think people are surprised to hear that I have an MA in English, because it doesn't really seem like a logical link, but in fact it always seemed to me quite related, because most of the stuff I ended up doing came from that university experience one way or another."

In 2000 Kapalka founded PopCap Games, which soon launched *Bejeweled*, one of the most successful puzzle games ever, earning a place in the Computer Gaming Hall of Fame in 2002 and selling more than 50 million units. It was followed by a string of hits including *Plants vs. Zombies* in 2009, a game that involves defending a home with plants from an army of invading zombies. It sold 300,000 units in its first nine days, setting a new record for launches on Apple's App Store.

In 2011, Kapalka and his partners sold PopCap to gaming giant Electronic Arts, the parent company of Edmonton's Bioware. Kapalka continues to work for PopCap in both management and creative roles.

"He was always a kind of unassuming, good-natured guy with a great sense of humour," recalls U of A creative writing professor Thomas Wharton, who took courses with Kapalka "back when we were penniless students."

"When I got together with him last year after all these years, he was the same unassuming guy despite the wealth—we had a great conversation."

Kapalka had already donated \$100,000 in 2011 to endow a writing prize in the English and film studies department, named after his father Stephen. But he wanted to do more to express his gratitude.

"When I talked to Tom about the current state of the creative writing program, he said things were kind of tough because there wasn't a lot of money," says Kapalka. "So I asked him, 'If I were to give another donation, what would be useful?'"

Taken aback at first, Wharton replied they could use some new furniture in the creative writing room. But after consulting with colleagues, he came back with a wish list of three priorities, with the writer-in-residence program at the top of the list.

"Jason wrote back to me saying he'd like to fund all three," says Wharton. "It was like talking to Santa Claus or something—for many, many years we've been hoping for something like this."

In addition to his \$1-million contribution to the writer-in-residence endowment, Kapalka has provided a \$100,000 gift to endow an award named after his friend Darren Zenko that will allow two or three students each year to attend the "Write With Style" course at the Banff Centre, and \$10,000 in bridge funding for *Glass Buffalo*, the U of A student literary magazine, until it becomes eligible for Canada Council grants.

And as for the furniture, he's even thrown in \$5,000 for that too.

"I looked at the creative writing room when I was there—it's actually quite a nice room, overlooking the river valley—but I swear it was the same furniture that was there when I was 20 years ago," Kapalka says with a laugh. ■



Jason Kapalka

Spalding

# Teaching future teachers a team effort for Provost's Award winner

DC Brandon

Demonstrates excellent planning and organization in course outlines and objectives? Check.

Instils vital interest in, and enthusiasm for, the subject on the part of students? Check.

Consistently demonstrates a concern for student progress and is available and approachable for out-of-classroom consultation? Check.

For Cheryl Poth, who teaches EDPY 303: Educational Assessment—a mandatory course for all pre-service teachers—the qualities it takes to win the Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate

Teaching are especially impressive, considering she teaches and coordinates with a team of teaching assistants in delivering nine on-campus sections of this education-degree must.

She says teamwork is the key to success in delivering the course effectively.

"The teaching assistants play a vital role in helping us to increase access to constructive feedback and to answer questions consistently," she says. "They, in turn, get exposure to the instructional decisions, and I have had graduate students guest lecture and become instructors in this course."

Jacqueline Leighton, chair of the Department of Educational



Cheryl Poth

instructor-designed questionnaire scores are out of this world."

Since coming to the U of A in 2008, Poth has amassed pages of accolades pulled from performance reviews by former students, samples ranging from "practices what she teaches—inspired me to learn more about assessment" to "you can tell she really cares and is always improving the course" to "excellent teaching, engaging, kind, and more importantly, challenging."

Despite her shifting the limelight to her team, there is no denying she is a superstar educator, a skill she developed as a grade-school teacher.

Poth began her teaching career as a classroom science and French teacher at an international school in

Quito, Ecuador, in 1997. In 1999 she joined Class Afloat—a Canadian classroom that travels the world aboard a tall ship—as a teacher and administrator before taking up a post in Ontario in 2001, then heading back to graduate school at Queen's University in 2003.

"When I left the classroom as a teacher, I only did it so that I could reach a larger population," said Poth. "I really enjoy teaching, and I wanted to have an impact on pre-service teachers."

"What motivates me to strive to achieve success in teaching is that I want to ensure we are giving our pre-service teachers real, down-to-earth lessons that are relevant in today's classrooms." ■

# Family medicine prof teaches kids that being active is fun

Janet Harvey

**H**ow do we get kids to move more? With about one-third of Canadian children between ages five and 17 either overweight or obese, it is a question on the minds of many parents and educators these days.

Doug Klein has a suggestion: start a 100-kilometre club in your kids' school.

In November 2012, the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry professor started just such a club at McKernan Elementary, where his three kids go to school. The results have been inspiring. More than 33 per cent of the school's kindergarten to Grade 6 children are participating in the challenge, running or walking laps in the gym Wednesdays at lunchtime and in the school's hallways Thursday mornings before classes start. The school has logged more than 4,400 kilometres to date.

"I've been blown away by the interest," says Klein, an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine. "I was

hoping to get a few kids to participate, but we have over 90. When I walk into the school Wednesdays at lunchtime I see the kids already running, wearing their club T-shirts."

The T-shirts are one of the rewards he, his wife Jennifer and Grade 5 teacher Jason Ludwar developed for the kids when they reach a milestone. At 25 kilometres they receive a 100 Kilometres Club T-shirt, a pen at 50, a bracelet at 75 and a medal at 100. Klein also had to order some additional bracelets to mark 150 kilometres for the kids who have already reached that milestone.

A runner himself, Klein remembers participating in a similar school club when he was a kid. And now, as a family doctor with a master's degree in public health, he says he is always looking for opportunities to help kids and families develop healthy habits. "The impact I see in the kids is unbelievable," he says. "They love it. And what's really great is that it's all sorts of kids participating, not just the kids who were already involved in sports or athletics. They're out having fun and that's



Doug Klein holds one of the T-shirts kids at McKernan receive when they log 25 km.

what this is all about. We're trying to teach them that activity is fun."

Klein adds that one of the club's most positive results is that it has extended into

participants' families. The kids are encouraged to walk and run on their own, outside of school, and to track those kilometres for the challenge. Naturally, moms and dads and other family members often end up participating as well. "It's spilling over so that it's not just healthy kids, it's also becoming healthy families, and that's even better."

Originally from Regina, Klein first came to the U of A to do his residency in family medicine. He and his wife liked the city and decided to stay and put down roots because of the opportunities and sense of community they found here. Building on his work with the 100 Kilometre Club, Klein is now developing a wellness network with McKernan and three other area schools: Belgravia, Grandview and Avalon. The network, which receives startup funding from the U of A School of Public Health, brings parents together across the four schools to share ideas and look at ways to promote healthy lifestyles for kids. ■

TLEF

# Professor envisions end of exam paper chase

Michael Brown

**I**n the not too distant future, pencil-and-paper tests at the University of Alberta will be a thing of the past.

**“This is a perfect example of how a U of A resource can support a U of A project that benefits U of A faculty and students.”**

Mark Gierl

The dawn of electronic testing and scoring will come courtesy of a multidisciplinary group of educators supported by a \$50,500 grant from the university's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund.

The project, entitled University of Alberta computer-based testing (UA-CBT) system, proposes to develop and evaluate a comprehensive, computer-based assessment system that meets the specific needs of instructors and students, and supports the rapid expansion of online teaching and learning,

Mark Gierl, professor of educational psychology, director of the Centre for Research in Applied Measurement and Evaluation, and lead on the project, says the system will transform teaching and learning by providing an outstanding assessment resource for all faculty and students.

"We are just getting our faculty members to convert their paper-and-pencil tests into a computer-based assessment," said Gierl.

"Once we get everybody into that world, there are all kinds of possibilities."

Gierl explains the assessment system initially developed will support the university's current multiple-choice item formats, but will also pave the way for a more interactive format for creating content for exams—items that include digital media such as sound and video, complex interactivity including task-based simulation items, and advanced assessment such as automated essay scoring.

"The way to think of the format is as a highway for information flow," he said.

"When it is in place, there is a lot of different information that can be put down that highway so faculty members can interact

with their students much more efficiently."

Finally, Gierl says the UA-CBT will be developed using a modular architecture so it is easy to expand, and it will be API compliant with eClass Moodle, thereby enabling seamless integration with the current U of A learning management system.

Gierl says development of the system will be followed by recruitment of a handful of faculty members to give it a test drive.

"The best way to think of this is as a complete testing package," he said. "Besides the monetary savings and ease on the professors—no more photocopies or lugging big boxes of tests to

classrooms—students will get results back almost instantly."

In the end, Gierl says, the university community will have the TLEF program to thank for this testing change that is for the better.

"This is a perfect example of how a U of A resource can support a U of A project that benefits U of A faculty and students," he said. ■

*Are You a  
Winner?*

Congratulations to Bente Roed who won a Butterdome butter dish as part of Folio's May 3 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Roed identified the last issue's photo as the cast-iron mural by Jordi Bonet on the south facade of SUB. Up for grabs is another wonderful Butterdome butter dish. To win it, simply identify where the object pictured is located and email your answer to [folio@ualberta.ca](mailto:folio@ualberta.ca) by noon on Monday, May 27, and you will be entered into the draw.

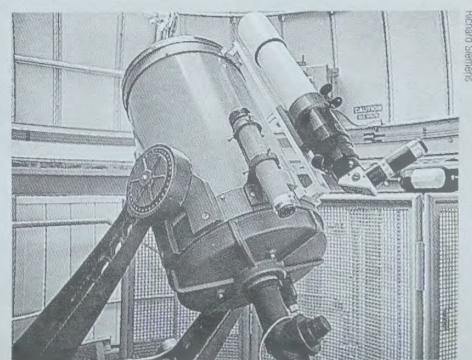


Photo: Siemers

# U of A president, leading biologist to receive honorary degrees

Michael Brown

**U**niversity of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera and renowned U of A biologist Miodrag (Mike) Belosevic are set to receive honorary degrees in June. Samarasekera will receive her fifth honorary degree June 14, this one from Western University in London, Ont. Besides her work as the U of A's 12th president, Samarasekera is internationally recognized as one of Canada's leading metallurgical engineers.

"The University of Western Ontario has a rich and distinguished history of excellence as a leading Canadian institution of research and higher education," said Samarasekera, who will be receiving an honorary doctor of laws degree. "I am truly humbled to be in the company of the other outstanding and talented individuals who have received this same honour."

Belosevic will receive an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Waterloo June 13.

Belosevic, a renowned parasitologist and fish immunologist, and a leader in developing water quality assessment assays, pioneered the understanding of fish immunity, and successfully developed a sensor for detecting waterborne



Indira Samarasekera and Mike Belosevic are to receive honorary degrees in June.

pathogens that has proved useful for the aquaculture industry, specifically in preventing costly disease outbreaks in the industry.

"It is indeed an honour to receive the doctor of science degree from the University of Waterloo," said Belosevic. "Throughout my career I always strived to translate basic research discoveries in my research to practical application. The University of Alberta has always provided appropriate support for me to accomplish this."

"Throughout my career I always strived to translate basic research discoveries in my research to practical application. The University of Alberta has always provided appropriate support for me to accomplish this."

Mike Belosevic

Belosevic's honorary degree is his first; Samarasekera has received honorary degrees from the University of British Columbia, the University of Waterloo, Queen's University Belfast and the Université de Montréal.

The list of those joining Samarasekera in accepting honorary degrees from Western includes *Toronto Star* journalist and political columnist Chantal Hébert, Margaret Trudeau, Olympian Silken Laumann, *Quirks & Quarks* host Bob McDonald, and former British first lady and women's rights advocate Cherie Blair. ■

## Extension's dean receives award for leadership in advancing higher education

Extension Staff

**W**hen new descriptors are conferred on academics, they typically appear after the surname. But in the case of the dean of the Faculty of Extension, the phrase "award-winning" can now precede her first name.

Katy Campbell has been awarded the Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada's Recognition Award for "demonstrated innovative leadership in advancing the mission of, and achieving outstanding contributions to, their institution and/or to higher education."

Factors key to Campbell's win were certainly the enthusiastic letters of reference from her colleagues and friends, Debra Pozega Osburn, vice-president of University

Relations, and Ayaz Bhanji, president of Edmonton's Ismaili Council. Campbell worked closely with Bhanji in developing programming for Edmonton's Ismaili Muslim community.

**"Katy is a strong and effective advocate for diverse communities both within and outside the institution."**

Debra Pozega Osburn

"Dr. Campbell was pivotal in setting up the Fall/Winter 2011-2012 citation programs



Katy Campbell

in entrepreneurship and management," wrote Bhanji. "The graduating students are now equipped with a recognized university education, and are becoming strong role models and ambassadors for the Ismaili community and society at large."

"Katy is a strong and effective advocate for diverse communities both within and outside the institution, assuring that we stay connected through our scholarship, community outreach activities, and—perhaps most importantly—our institutional visioning," wrote Pozega Osburn.

The Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada organization was founded in 1987 to provide a forum and a collective voice for women in senior administrative ranks in Canadian universities, colleges and technical institutes. ■

## Lister Hall dispute resolved

Folio Staff

**A**cting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Martin Ferguson-Pell and Students' Union President Petros Kusmu released a joint statement May 6 announcing a new agreement regarding changes to University of Alberta residences:

The University of Alberta administration and the Students' Union (SU) executive have settled a dispute related to changes made to the student residence, Lister Hall, announced last July.

This is great news for the university, and we look forward to continuing to work together productively in the future.

The major points of the agreement include the following:

- A facilitated process will be developed to arrive at consensus with respect to the meaning and requirements of consultation.
- The 2008 memorandum of agreement between the Lister Hall Students' Association and Residence Services was confirmed, with a commitment to update the MOA.
- Students will be in the majority on the Residence Advisory Committee.
- The university will provide the SU with current and historical data related to alcohol-related incidents in residences.
- The SU will provide feedback on the existing alcohol policy.
- A student representative will serve as a member of the hiring committee for the position of assistant dean of students, residence life.
- The university will seek staff, student and community input as part of the review of residence operations related to the changes announced in July 2012.
- The university makes final decisions on whether the current alcohol policy as articulated in all university residence house rules (including Lister Hall residence-specific rules) should be modified in any way, effective for September 2013. The university will consult with the SU regarding any such proposed modifications. ■

## Investing in a strong Canada-China relationship

Michael Davies-Venn

**A** recent forum by the University of Alberta brought together academics, senior government officials, and business and industry executives to discuss public policy issues related to Chinese investments in Canada.

The high-level forum supports the provincial government's international efforts, said Teresa Woo-Paw, associate minister of international and intergovernmental relations.

"Alberta plays a vigorous role in focusing and prioritizing international activities, and our efforts are enhanced tenfold by a knowledgeable and engaged private sector, as well as the support and involvement of the non-profit sector and educational partners," Woo-Paw said. "I commend the China Institute for this opportunity to discuss public policy challenges and to explore where opportunities lie for Alberta to deepen trade and investment ties with China."

The minister made the comments in Calgary during the forum, *Public Policy Dimensions of Chinese Investment in Canada*, organized by the U of A's China Institute.

The forum comes amid considerable public policy discourse on future Canada-China economic

relations and on the heels of a recent Government of Canada report, *Canada-China Economic Complementarities Study*, which outlined seven sectors of opportunity for growth in commerce.

But for those opportunities to become realities, there needs to be a coherent public policy between all levels of government, says Gordon Houlden, director of the China Institute.

"All 14 governments are aligned in wanting more investments in Canada. Where it gets complicated is the resources sector, where the provinces own the resource but where the federal government has responsibilities in terms of investment promotion. And in those areas there needs to be more coherence of policy, because if we don't have that between the federal and provincial governments, there's a risk that will drive away foreign investment, to the detriment of the Canadian economy."

Delegates spent the day tackling issues such as recent developments in Chinese investments in Canada; public policy implications of Chinese investments, with a focus on the energy sector; understanding state-owned enterprises; and future prospects for Chinese investments in Canada and Alberta. ■



Gordon Houlden

U of A board chair Doug Goss welcomed delegates and noted the importance of their deliberations in light of China's investments in Canada, which reached \$20 billion last year.

"The rapid rise of China in the 20th century, most notably its economy, and its bright prospects for the 21st century, compel us to consider carefully the implications of Chinese economic success for Canada," he said. "China, now possessing deep reserves of foreign currency, can be a key part in building 21st-century prosperity for Canadians. The China Institute is dedicated to enhancing understanding on issues involving both China and Canada by creating opportunities, such as this high-level forum, for fruitful and substantive dialogue." ■

# An education for midwives in Canada's Arctic

Bryan Alary

**A** University of Alberta nursing professor is winning accolades for her work to teach midwifery in Nunavut while preserving local practices and traditions.

Beverley O'Brien, a professor in the Faculty of Nursing and registered midwife, has written a new book, *Birth on the Land: Memories of Inuit Elders and Traditional Midwives*, which contains the stories and memories of elder women and midwives living in Nunavut.

The book is part of a midwifery training program that O'Brien helped develop, with partners at Nunavut Arctic College and Laurentian University, so expectant mothers can give birth in their own communities rather than travelling thousands of kilometres to centres like Winnipeg—a major challenge facing the North. O'Brien helped develop the program over parts of three years and during that time interviewed

several elders and traditional midwives about their centuries-old traditions.

"The idea with our program is to not just give lip service and say every midwifery course has an Inuit cultural component, but to make sure that it does," O'Brien says of the first-person stories published in English and Inuktitut. The book is also a resource for southerners living and working in the North to help them gain an appreciation for the richness of the culture.

Published by Nunavut Arctic College with funding from the territorial government, *Birth on the Land* recently earned praise in the Nunavut legislature. That feedback was special for O'Brien, who first lived in the North 30 years ago as a public health nurse in several communities on Baffin Island—a time when she says many southern health-care professionals were "colonial" in their patient interactions.

That's gradually changed over the years, and she hopes to change it further with the book.

"We have to make sure the midwifery practices we teach are inclusive, that in fact elders are involved in their care and we respect what they're saying," she says. "A lot of their traditions and stories contain very good information—encouraging women to eat traditional land foods, encouraging them not to smoke, a variety of things where they can help, and probably do a better job than we can."

Students in the midwifery program can attain four education levels, from a maternity care worker certificate all the way to a degree—training that meets Canadian midwifery standards. The program has graduated 10 care workers and two midwives, with four more students coming on stream—expertise that will address a shortage of midwives, a problem that has led to 70 per cent of Inuit women flying south to give birth, often leaving their families behind.

When Nunavut's first birthing centre opened in Rankin Inlet in 1992, it was staffed



Beverley O'Brien

by southern-trained midwives and retention was an issue.

Since the program launched, Inuit midwives started working at the centre and another that opened in Cambridge Bay; midwifery is also being introduced this fall at Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit, where most births occur.

O'Brien says she's grateful for all the support she has received, especially from the U of A. "For a large, international university, the University of Alberta has been very supportive of my work and this project." ■

## Online support a breath of fresh air for children with asthma and severe allergies

Bryan Alary

**A** multi-site pilot project is providing a breath of fresh air for children with asthma and severe allergies by helping them interact with peers online and boosting their self-confidence.

Children with severe respiratory problems can be socially isolated and feel a sense of embarrassment about not being able to participate in certain activities with other kids their age. The new pilot used social networking websites and tools to help children with asthma and allergies talk openly about issues and feelings in a fun setting.

"This type of intervention bridges some of the gaps of social isolation in a way that's fun and relevant to kids with asthma and allergies," said lead

project developer Miriam Stewart, a professor in the Faculty of Nursing. "It was designed based on the kids' own support needs and what they wanted in an intervention—and fun and enjoyment was a big part of it."

**“The ability to work with researchers from numerous disciplines has always appealed to me.”**

Miriam Stewart

In the pilot, 27 children aged seven to 11 years participated in weekly online meetings with slightly older peer mentors. Each session ended with kids playing on Club Penguin, a social network site where

kids create penguin avatars that live in the Antarctic.

The study showed that children reported a sharp decrease in loneliness and an increased ability to tell people about their health and support needs. Children were also more likely to talk openly about asthma and allergies, and to use support-seeking coping such as reinforcing with friends the importance of allergy-friendly foods at social activities.

"That's really important because seeking support was a major challenge for them," says Stewart, who has coped with her own severe asthma and allergies. "This pilot helped increase their self-confidence and reduce the loneliness they felt."

Stewart is now working with Anaphylaxis Canada and the Asthma Society of Canada in a followup

study, funded by Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions and AllerGen NCE, on creating a sustainable online program for children and youth with severe allergies and asthma.

She and her interdisciplinary multi-site teams are also exploring ways to make these interventions more accessible for vulnerable populations, including Aboriginal children and kids from low-income families—projects funded by the Canadian

Institutes of Health Research and AllerGen NCE. It's the type of cross-disciplinary research that first attracted her to the U of A, she says.

"The ability to work with researchers from numerous disciplines has always appealed to me and was essential to completing this research."

"The U of A and the Faculty of Nursing have provided amazing opportunities for me and my work." ■

## Helping the youngest stroke sufferers get a leg up

Raquel Maurier

**T**oddlers who suffered a stroke as babies are learning how to walk thanks to research being conducted at the University of Alberta.

The research is led by Monica Gorassini and Jaynie Yang from the U of A's Centre for Neuroscience, who received \$1.1 million in funding to launch a provincial study after seeing positive results from a small pilot study in which five children showed marked improvements in leg mobility and symmetry while walking.

They hope to recruit 60 children for the study who have suffered perinatal stroke—meaning the stroke happened between 20 weeks' gestation and 28 days after birth. The incidence of perinatal stroke in Canada is 1.2 for every 1,000 births.

Yang and Gorassini say they wanted to study children who experienced early brain injuries because children's nervous systems are more mouldable. Their team members wondered whether there is a critical period for motor development for walking that would be more amenable to change. Previous research has shown that the protective coating of nerve cells, from the brain to the region of the spinal cord controlling the legs, doesn't fully mature until a person is two years old. Knowing that, the team wanted to find out whether they could improve mobility in children who have brain injuries before that nerve-cell coating becomes mature.

"We thought maybe we have a chance to really make a difference in these children," says Yang.

Gorassini's role will be to test the children to see whether extra leg exercises from physical therapy are genuinely improving connections in the damaged side of the brain, and whether new pathways from the brain to the spinal cord are being created or restored. She will test the children before any physical therapy starts, and then after the intensive training, to see whether the connections are stronger.



Study participant Alesandra climbs stairs with help from her physiotherapist, Donna Livingstone.

"We want to try to induce regrowth of the damaged side of the brain and the tracts that are going from the brain to the spinal cord," says Gorassini. "We want to see whether intense physical therapy intervention before the age of two produces better long-term outcomes for these kids, and a better quality of life for them and their families."

She explains intensive physiotherapy at an early age is cheaper than surgery to lengthen tendons and Botox injections for the legs. She adds this intervention could save a child from painful surgeries, and save the healthcare system money.

"I see adults who have had perinatal stroke as an infant, and what I often see is large deformities in the feet, ankles and leg architecture because of a lifetime of disuse or favouring the other leg. This is what we want to prevent for these children."

The provincial study will occur at two centres—Corbett Hall on the U of A campus in Edmonton and a U of A physical therapy site in Calgary—and through Skype with Alberta families unable to come to either of the major centres. ■

## Bridging a physiotherapy skills gap

Bryan Alary

**A** new University of Alberta program will help address a growing need for trained physical therapists by helping internationally educated students practise in Canada.

The Department of Physical Therapy and Physiotherapy Alberta – College + Association are partnering to offer an Alberta-wide bridging program that gives internationally educated physical therapists the education they need to practise in Canada. The two-year pilot program is unique in Western Canada and will help address a skills shortage in Alberta that is expected to reach 1,100 physical therapists by 2017.

"This initiative shows leadership and vision, and I see it as the first step toward creating a national program that can have a positive impact on the health of Canadians," said Bob Haennel, acting dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Funded by a grant from Health Canada, the pilot will see an initial 17 students with physiotherapy training from countries such as Chile, Nigeria, the Philippines and Brazil receive training in Edmonton and Calgary. The 13-month course features a blend of online, lab, real-time video and hands-on learning, including mentorship by a practising physical therapist and a six-week clinical internship.

Bernadette Martin, associate chair of physical therapy, says the program is designed to be flexible so students can continue to work during the day—many are employed as physical therapy assistants—and build their skills to enter the workforce in their chosen field. She adds the pilot, created in collaboration with a similar program out of the University of Toronto, will evaluate what specific skills need to be bridged and, if successful, could be offered nationally, given the program takes advantage of real-time web and video technology the department already uses to teach master's students in both Edmonton and Calgary.

"This is our incubator model to evaluate the components of a successful bridging model," Martin said. "Ultimately, our vision is to offer something that's truly pan-Canadian." ■



The new Alberta Internationally Educated Physiotherapists Bridging Program blends online, lab, real-time video and hands-on learning to help internationally educated students practise in Canada.

# Helping forests gain ground on climate change

Bev Betkowski

**U**niversity of Alberta researchers have developed guidelines that are being used by the timber industry and government foresters to get a jump on climate change when planting trees.

Maps developed by Laura Gray, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Renewable Resources, provide projections of climatically suitable habitat for tree species based on climate predictions for the 2020s, 2050s and 2080s.

Currently, Alberta forestry companies and government agencies plant 80 million spruce, fir and pine seedlings to reforest more than 50,000 hectares of harvested land annually.

"The information helps forest managers have more confidence in their decisions on what and where to plant. It allows them to more accurately assess the climatic risk," said Gray, co-author of the study with professor Andreas Hamann.

The first-of-its-kind study addresses concerns that many populations of wide-ranging tree species, which are adapted to local growing conditions, may now or in the future actually lag behind their optimal growing environment because of changing temperature and precipitation conditions.

Gray's large-scale research considers patterns of climate change observed from the 1970s until recently. The researchers found that on average, populations already lag behind their best climate niche by 130 kilometres in latitude or 60 metres in elevation.

Generally, Gray said, forest managers should consider using seed from more southern climates or lower elevation environments. The seed should still be of the same tree species, rather than introducing a new species into a foreign environment, she added.

Foresters in British Columbia have started using the study's results as one of the tools to aid assisted seed migration strategies, Gray noted.



Laura Gray

The study was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Alberta Forestry Research Institute, and industry partners Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, Ainsworth Engineered Canada LP, Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd., Western Boreal Aspen Corporation and Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd. ■

# Technician puts U of A research on the map

Michael Brown

**W**hile completing a master's degree in geography in Calgary in the early 2000s, Charlene Nielsen saw a posting for a similar position to the one she has now.



Charlene Nielsen

"I thought to myself, 'Wow, that would be a dream job,'" said the veteran University of

Alberta geographic information systems (GIS) technologist. "It is such an interdisciplinary science that you can bring in ideas from all these different disciplines. I love to continue to learn and expand my horizons. There is never any limit to what you can do."

"And maps are just the coolest."

Since 2001, Nielsen, a self-described "map geek," has been living the geography dream in the Department of Biological Sciences. There, she provides GIS support for an average of 60 researchers per year.

Nielsen explains GIS is used in a number of applications—from urban planning to government census statistics—to compile data in the form of a map.

In biological sciences, she says it is mostly about tracking wildlife, "where the animals are, where they should be and where conservation is needed."

"GIS are typically maps, but more useful than a paper road map for direction finding, because GIS has a database stored behind the geometry."

Nielsen points to researchers tracking larger fauna using GPS collars as an example. She says the researchers have known locations of where these animals have been. Those data are then used to create their habitat selection model—essentially a map—based on statistical modelling and simulations.

"If, for instance, we know where the elk are on the landscape and want to predict what will happen to the population if more roads or oil and gas are introduced into that habitat, we can," said Nielsen, who says she can get the GIS to "throw in everything including 10 million kitchen sinks," as long as it is ecologically meaningful.

Nielsen says she helps out grad students and tenured researchers alike, guiding beginners through creating simple study area maps and helping the more experienced researchers determine what kind of environmental variables or habitats are associated with their data, creating a myriad of map layers. In either case, Nielsen, who recently received the 2013 Nat Rutter Outstanding Technician of the Year award, says the best assistance she can give is encouraging her cohorts to work through it.

"I figure there is an inner geographer in all of us, whether people are willing to admit it or not," she said. "A lot of the graduate students do their own GIS work and come to me when they are stumped on something they need to overcome and understand. Others know what they have to do but they have to do it a thousand times; I will help them automate that."

She says the problems she encounters are never the same and GIS technology is always changing. "I love that I can still think of innovative ways to tackle problems and come up with even better, faster solutions than I might have had before."

The Nat Rutter Outstanding Technician of the Year award is presented by the U of A chapter of Sigma Xi, a scientific research society that promotes excellence in scientific investigation and recognizes quality of work, innovation and dedication." ■

## staff spotlight

### Funds aimed at cultivating research for better canola

Michel Proulx

**T**he University of Alberta's canola breeding program is getting a \$3.1-million funding injection over the next five years.

Viterra is contributing more than \$1.6 million in financing and in-kind contributions, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada is providing \$1.5 million. The funding brings together a partnership of industry, government and academia.

The funding will support research by Habibur Rahman, a researcher in the U of A's Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, on broadening genetic diversity in canola—Canada's top revenue crop—leading to the creation of canola hybrids that have better yield, improved agronomic traits and better resistance to disease.

According to Statistics Canada, about 21 million acres of canola were planted in Western Canada during the 2012 growing season, a new all-time planting record that produced 13.3 million metric tonnes of canola and generated \$8.1 billion in farm cash receipts last year.

Given the strong global demand for canola, an oilseed rich in healthy fats and oils, research and development for a higher-yielding and more efficient crop is a key

driver in supplying the increasing global demand for nutritious food ingredients.

The narrow genetic diversity of today's canola is a major impediment for breeders as they seek to continually improve the crop.

"The proposed research will explore the genetic diversity of canola's different gene pools, including its allied species, in order to develop hybrid canola cultivars with better yields, improved agronomic traits—such as earlier flowering, shorter plants and stiffer stalks—and better resistance to diseases such as clubroot, blackleg and others," said Rahman, who added that enhanced genetic diversity is also important for reducing the crop's vulnerability to insect pests and other stresses caused by changes in global climatic conditions.

Janet Walden, acting president of NSERC, said she was proud that the funding body was investing in this U of A project with Viterra because it allows "researchers to work together with business to pursue some of the most ambitious and creative ideas in the world."

NSERC's partnership grants enable companies to leverage the expertise at Canadian universities and colleges to meet their R&D goals, and train students with the expertise to become the leaders of tomorrow.



Habibur Rahman

"This is an excellent example of the value-add of partnerships in research," she said.

John Kennelly, dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, stated that through strong partnerships with industry and government, such as this one, "we're able to work together and leverage our expertise to provide solutions to some of the world's most pressing issues, like food security. This project is one example of the type of solutions that we'll need to feed a growing world population and that will also benefit Canadian farmers." ■

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# University recognizes people who connect communities

Bev Betkowski & Michael Brown

**G**iving the curious public first-hand proof that the sky has no limit has helped Sharon Morsink secure the first ever Community Leader Award, one of three Community Connections Awards being handed out as the University of Alberta celebrates the dedication of its campus citizens to the larger community.

"People of Edmonton, and Alberta, understand that the university brings something to the community that's important, and that those connections are equally important to both the community and the university," said Debra Pozega Osburn, vice-president of university relations. "With that, we decided it was long overdue to begin recognizing the community members, U of A faculty, staff, or students who embody the spirit of 'uplifting the whole people' through their commitment to connecting with the communities we serve."

Congratulations to all of the nominees for tirelessly sharing their time and talent with the community and to all of the nominators for recognizing the immense talent among us."

Morsink, an astrophysicist in the Department of Physics, is joined by Advocacy Award winner Renée Vaugeois and Community Scholar Award recipient Lola Baydala as the inaugural honourees.

Morsink has led a team of student volunteers in co-ordinating the U of A's campus observatory program, working together to make the observatory accessible for all ages. Nearly 4,000 people visited the observatory atop the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science, including 1,000 schoolchildren who experienced stargazing, free lectures and demonstrations on campus last year.

Morsink has also served as a co-lead for SkyScan, a collaborative project with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, where she helps bring astronomy workshops to local schools.

Morsink helped plan the observatory as CCIS was being built in 2005-06. Under her guidance, a small lecture theatre



Sharon Morsink

and hands-on displays became part of the observatory, which houses telescopes for viewing the sun and the night sky, and for conducting undergraduate research. "It made sense to ensure as many people as possible can benefit from it. It's a thing of beauty when you can also explain what it is you see."

Sharing that beauty with children and the rest of the stargazing public unveils the fun of science and builds appreciation of what sometimes is stereotyped as a dry discipline, Morsink noted.

"We want children to see that science is something they can understand and get excited about," she said. "There's a hunger for knowledge out there, and it is important that we at the U of A try to feed that hunger."

As a local leader on the human rights scene, Renée Vaugeois has been steadily blazing trails for social justice, partnering with the U of A to advocate for marginalized people here at home and internationally. That leadership has earned her the UAlberta Advocacy Award.

"We can never come to solutions in our community unless we have collective wisdom," she said. "The U of A plays an integral role in that."

Under Vaugeois's guidance, the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights has collaborated with U of A departments and institutes to host several events, including an international youth assembly on water issues and a conference on multiculturalism. An upcoming conference this summer focusing on health will bring to campus 400 youths from around the world.

U of A students also team with Vaugeois to spread awareness and make a difference as global citizens. They support the Ainembabazi Children Project as interns, travelling to Uganda to serve vulnerable children there, and international students contribute their insights for lectures on development and poverty.

"A lot of students from the University of Alberta really drive these issues today."

While still a student at the U of A, Vaugeois left her own mark by helping to start a certificate program in peace and

interns, travelling to Uganda to serve vulnerable children there, and international students contribute their insights for lectures on development and poverty.

"A lot of students from the University of Alberta really drive these issues today."

While still a student at the U of A, Vaugeois left her own mark by helping to start a certificate program in peace and

post-conflict studies. Going forward she says she looks forward to continued partnership and growth with the university. "Everybody I work with at the U of A, their hearts are in the right place and we make things happen."

Lola Baydala, associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics, alumna and advocate for children's well-being, has seen her work push far beyond her medical practice, focusing on the promotion and development of health education.

By inviting community members to share their story, she has helped Aboriginal communities such as the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Enoch Cree Nation and Maskwacis Cree Nation, as well as Edmonton Public Schools, create child-focused health programs.

Baydala began teaming with Aboriginal communities through her hospital-based teaching clinic at Misericordia Community Hospital in Edmonton; many women from surrounding areas who had their babies in the hospital became her patients, and through them, she became aware of their needs.

She asked the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, located west of Edmonton, whether she could provide a service. The band agreed, and asked Baydala to assess the learning needs of their school-age children to help secure funding for classroom support. That led to discussion and eventual funding of programs for preventing substance abuse for Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, as well as for Maskwacis Cree Nation schools in Hobbema.

Along the way, Baydala, her colleagues and her Aboriginal partners sealed research relationships that reflect not only university knowledge, but also equally valuable community knowledge. She says those connections help assure the success of community programs.

"Often, the community has the answers to its challenges," she said. "If we take the time to sit down and talk to the community and engage in deep listening, the answers are there, and we as a university can help actualize those solutions."

The celebration recognizing these outstanding individuals will be held May 23 at City Hall starting at noon. ■



Renée Vaugeois



Lola Baydala

## Award designers' creativity snowballs into fitting tribute

Sun-splashed white winters and its northernmost location have inspired the design of the University of Alberta's first-ever Community Connections Awards.

Ika Peraic and Layal Shuman, graduate students in the Department of Art and Design, won a homegrown competition over two other teams of classmates with their vision for an award that honours the U of A fabric and the university's contributions to the larger community.

Perched on acrylic bases, the round, three-dimensional spheres feature an interior series of circles gilded with a golden hue. In creating the award, Peraic and Shuman wanted to visually tap into one of the university's characteristic features: snow.

"We were inspired by the fact that snow covers the campus most of the year," said Peraic. "It shapes the University of Alberta's identity and creates a special experience for its community."

The pair spun that into the idea of a snowball growing bigger as it gathers ice particles, reflecting the university's mission of generating value through knowledge, and with that knowledge, keeping a promise of "uplifting the whole people."

Peraic developed the design concept and worked on the prototype, then collaborated with Shuman on refining it and presenting it to an awards committee, which ultimately chose it as the winner.

The award's shape represents the infinite circle of community, while the intersecting circles within send a message of connected communities. The polished golden surfaces, inspired by sunlight reflected off of snow, "represent the value of the community and the individuals winning the awards," Shuman said.

Each of the three keeper sculptures is angled differently to celebrate individual recipients. "We wanted to show that the winners are equally valuable in their contributions, but also distinct from one another," said Peraic.

Peraic, who holds a degree in sculpture and industrial design from her home country of Croatia, and Shuman, who came to the U of A from Lebanon with a degree in graphic design, were honoured at the invitation of their instructors to take part in the competition.

"It's wonderful that the university engaged us and created a connection with its own community of students and utilized our potential," Peraic said. "It feels natural to have your work applied." ■



Ika Peraic (left) and Layal Shuman

- by Bev Betkowski

# The Friends of the University of Alberta

The Friends of the University is an organization, established in 1947, which plays an active role in supporting programs that enrich University life. The organization serves to reach out to the greater community and provide a connection to all interested in learning more about the U of A, including alumni, Senators, members of the Board of Governors, faculty, staff and the general public.

invites you to our public

## Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 23rd, 2013

The Faculty Club

11435 Saskatchewan Drive, Edmonton

Guest Speaker: Dr. Katy Campbell

Dean, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta

Cocktails: 6:00 p.m. (cash bar)

Dinner: 6:30 p.m. (\$40)

Guest Speaker: 7:30 p.m.

RSVP online at [www.ualberta.ca/friendsofufa](http://www.ualberta.ca/friendsofufa)

# Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry a \$2B economic engine for Alberta

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry Staff

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry unveiled its first economic impact report May 13, demonstrating an impact of \$2 billion on the provincial economy in 2012. The report also showed that the faculty creates and supports jobs for more than 13,500 Albertans and has graduated 28 per cent of the family doctors and physician specialists caring for patients in the province.

D. Douglas Miller, dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, says the report provides evidence that the faculty

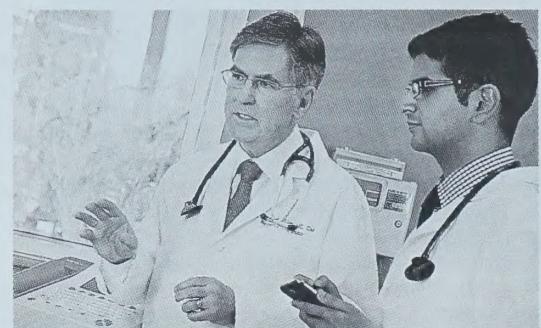
fuels the economic engine of Alberta by generating real income, providing jobs, and educating doctors and dental professionals who stay here to care for Albertans. The faculty also has an impact on the day-to-day lives of patients and their families through research discoveries and providing the latest world-class treatments through clinical trials.

"We are the flagship medical school in Alberta and we have a provincial responsibility," said Miller. "Part of how we convert our budget is by educating doctors and dental professionals who move to communities across Alberta. These students become economic drivers and factors that add to the quality of life in these communities."

Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel added, "This report clearly demonstrates the faculty is an economic pillar in the Edmonton region, and throughout Alberta. The work it does benefits our children, our parents and our families. Because it is here, we have more family doctors in our city, medical specialists to help our loved ones living with chronic diseases, and amazing medical breakthroughs made right here in our very own city."

In 2012, the University of Alberta provided the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry with an operating budget of \$79.6 million. The economic impact study shows that the faculty generates 2.5 times the value of every operating dollar it receives from the university.

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry is demonstrating a leadership role as the first medical school in Canada to conduct an evidence-based review of its economic impact. Tripp Umbach, the agency that produced the report, has compiled economic impact studies for several American medical schools.



Second-year medical student Irfan Kherani on a consult with D. Douglas Miller, dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

"The multiple impacts of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry touch virtually every part of the province of Alberta including research, patient care, workforce training and economic development. The faculty is clearly one of the important drivers of the Alberta economy," said Paul Umbach, the agency's founder and president.

The report looked at the faculty's operational impact, as well the impact of its patient care activities in partnership with Alberta Health Services, examining both direct and indirect spending. Specifically, the report looked at capital and research spending, salaries and benefits, spending by visitors and students, and money pumped into the economy by businesses hired by the faculty. The economic impact number didn't include the financial impact of research commercialization or alumni, although the report did note the significance of these numbers. ■

## 2012 figures of note

- The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry brought in \$131.5 million in research dollars in 2011-12, making up about 40 per cent of the U of A's total research dollars.
- Faculty graduates from a single academic year create more than \$786 million in economic value over the course of their careers (looking only at graduates who stay in Alberta).
- In partnership with AHS, the faculty's work with the multi-organ transplantation
- program is one of the most comprehensive academic/clinical programs in the country.
- About 52 per cent of the dentists registered in Alberta are U of A graduates.
- The faculty annually graduates almost 25 per cent of all medical laboratory technologists working in the province.
- About 40 per cent of dental hygienists registered in Alberta are U of A alumni.

# A picture exhibit is worth 100 years

Amy Hewko

To help showcase of a century of teaching, learning and research excellence, the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry has put together a photo exhibit.

Entitled 100 Years of Medicine, the exhibit depicts the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry from all angles: as dedicated professionals, as students eager for knowledge and as an institution with a rich history that is still unfolding.

Faculty member and alumna Katharine Fagan-Garcia submitted Frosted, a self-portrait she took while working with CANHelp in Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T. The close-up photo shows the frost that formed on her eyelashes, eyebrows and skin after a 20-minute walk in -40°C weather to the research site.

"It shows how the students and research assistants, like me, and other people who are involved in research are out there in different settings, performing the research and trying to get answers to health questions," Fagan-Garcia said of her submission choice. "Since Edmonton is further north than many other places, representing research in the North is an important part of the faculty."

Greg Sawicky, first-year medical student, focused on the art of medicine for his submissions. He chose photos like Donning the Gloves, an extreme close-up of a medical student putting on gloves (inset), and N95 Fit Testing, which features several juxtaposed students. He also submitted A Day in the Life: Sarah Forgie, a 12-image collage of the associate professor of infectious disease.

"I think it makes a powerful statement about medicine today—it's not just being in clinic. Physicians are people and they have this whole life around them," Sawicky said of the piece. "It includes hockey practice and sitting around the dinner table and goofy moments with their children. That was the attempt. To really

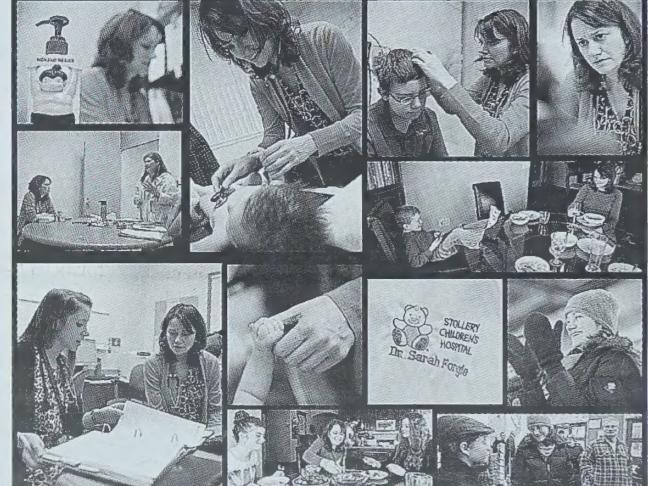
put a face on it and humanize that interaction."

Pieces of the faculty's history are also documented in the exhibit, thanks in part to the submissions of staff member Greg Olson. He took the opportunity to share some pictures from the Surgical Medical Research Institute's early years.

The first photo shows Premier Ernest Manning's visit to the institute in 1964, shortly after it initially opened its doors in 1960. The second is a staff photo taken in 1969 by Konstanty Kowalewski, the institute's first director.

Despite its grainy black-and-white appearance, the image remains relevant. "One person in the staff picture retired in 1999. He was there for 43 years. He was the last one in that picture to retire," Olson stated while explaining the history behind the images. "In something like that, you can see the history."

The exhibit is free to the public and will be on display until the end of May in the John W. Scott Health Sciences Library. ■



(Top) *A Day in the Life: Sarah Forgie* by Greg Sawicky. (Bottom, L-R) *Frosted* by Katharine Fagan-Garcia; Self-portrait by Egerton Pope during his tenure (1923-44) as the first chair of the Department of Medicine.

# Funding brings leading-edge neuroscience centre closer to reality

Raquel Maurier & Michael Brown

A vision for a centre of research excellence filled with state-of-the-art equipment to help researchers find solutions for nervous system diseases and injury is coming to fruition thanks to government investment and in-kind contributions from key stakeholders.

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation researcher Vivian Mushahwar and her team have received more than \$3 million in funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, more than \$3 million from Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education's Research Capacity Program, and funding from foundations for a total of \$7.7 million to help establish a Centre for Neural Interfaces and Rehabilitation Neuroscience.

Mushahwar's research team will use the equipment to design interventions to restore



Vivian Mushahwar

motor function for people who have neural injuries and diseases, such as stroke, spinal cord injury, limb amputations, Parkinson's disease or MS, which collectively cost the health-care system \$23 billion a year.

Her team is well known for inventing devices that interact with and respond to a patient's nervous system. For example, the group recently developed the science behind robotic arms that provide sensation of touch and position when patients manipulate objects

and move their artificial arms in space. The team also developed micro-scale devices that interact with the spinal cord and could restore standing and walking after spinal cord injury.

"What we needed was specialized equipment to let us push these devices into the next generation," said Mushahwar. "This equipment will allow us to combine smart technology with neuro-rehabilitation. We'll be one of the few places in the world to do this."

The lab will have three main focuses: device development and biological testing, robotic training and rehabilitation science, and virtual reality testing. On the device development side, the new site means that as engineers develop new inventions, they can ensure the devices fit with the body's biology by conducting testing on site right away.

The robotics part of the site will include the new robotic arm and legs. The robotic arm is one of five developed by a team at Johns

Hopkins University. The virtual reality section of the site will allow people with mobility issues to wear goggles that simulate real environments—like walking up a hill, getting out of the way of a car, moving an object out of the way with their arms, or changing speed unexpectedly—yet they'll be safe inside a lab.

Mushahwar's lab is also receiving a donation from Iguana Robotics—a set of robotic legs worth about \$120,000. The owner wanted to donate the robotic limbs, only the second set the company has produced, because he believed in the research science happening at the U of A, said Mushahwar.

"Our research group is composed of world leaders in the field," said Mushahwar, of the researchers from the U.S. and Europe who have already made plans for a visit. "The outcomes will greatly improve the lives of many Canadians and reduce costs in the health-care system." ■

# University awards first science degree north of 60 in Canada

Michel Proulx

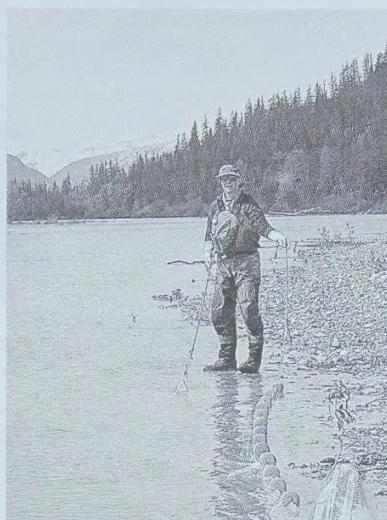
The University of Alberta awarded the first bachelor of science degree north of the 60th parallel in Canada when Natasha Ayoub was presented her degree May 11 during the convocation ceremony at Yukon College.

Ayoub earned a BSc in environmental and conservation sciences (ENCS), with a major in conservation biology, after completing the program, which is a partnership between the U of A and Yukon College.

The partnership allows students in the Yukon to obtain their degree without having to leave the territory. It started in January 2010 when Ayoub and eight other students enrolled.

"I'm really happy the North is moving toward having education locally based," she said. "That's really important to me. It's great that Yukoners don't have to move away anymore to get an education."

Ayoub had previously earned a diploma in renewable resource management from the college in 2007 and wanted to further her studies. At the time, she would have



Natasha Ayoub

the environmental and conservation sciences program from the U of A would be starting at Yukon College campus. I didn't want to leave the territory."

Ayoub was the first to graduate from her class because she had the luxury of taking more classes than her classmates—all of whom, like Ayoub, are working professionals. At least five more are expected to graduate next year and many more in the years to come. The program currently has 35 students enrolled, the vast majority of whom are working professionals, but that now includes some transfer students from diploma programs at Yukon College and other post-secondary institutions.

The ENCS program offers courses from the U of A's Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, where it resides, as well as from the Faculty of Native Studies and from Yukon College's School of Science.

Ayoub said one of the things she really appreciated about the program is its emphasis on Yukon-specific issues—something Fiona Schmiegelow, a U of A professor and ENCS program director based at Yukon College, has worked hard to accomplish.

"I have a job that I love that I wouldn't have qualified for without this degree."

Natasha Ayoub

"The program integrates natural and social sciences as related to issues such as wildlife conservation, land use, energy and global climate change. The Yukon is an ideal location to witness some of these global changes and their impacts," said Schmiegelow.

During her undergraduate degree, Ayoub worked for Access Consulting Group, an environmental consulting company, where she continues to work today.

"I have a job that I love that I wouldn't have qualified for without this degree," she said, adding that she is pursuing her studies further. She enrolled in a master of science program in environmental practice, in which she'll be studying mine reclamation and remediation using native plant species in fish-bearing streams. ■

## Dino discovery resurrects decades-old research on armour-plated beasts

Brian Murphy

Just when dinosaur researchers thought they had a thorough knowledge of ankylosaurs, a family of squat, armour-plated plant-eaters, along comes University of Alberta graduate student Victoria Arbour.

Arbour visited dinosaur fossil collections from Alberta to the U.K., examining skull armour and comparing those head details with other features of the fossilized ankylosaur remains. She made a breakthrough that resurrected research done more than 70 years ago.

Arbour explains that between 1900 and 1930, researchers had determined that small variations in the skull armour and the tail clubs in some ankylosaurs constituted four individual species of the dinosaurs.

"In the 1970s the earlier work was discarded and those four species were lumped into one species called Euoplocephalus," said Arbour.

"I examined many fossils and found I could group some fossils together because their skull armour corresponded with a particular shape of their tail club," said Arbour.

Finding common features in fossils that come from the same geologic time is evidence that the original researchers were right, says Arbour. "There were in fact four different species represented by what scientists previously thought was only one species, Euoplocephalus."

The four species span a period of about 10 million years. Arbour's research shows that three of those ankylosaur species lived at the same time in what is now Dinosaur Provincial Park in southern Alberta.

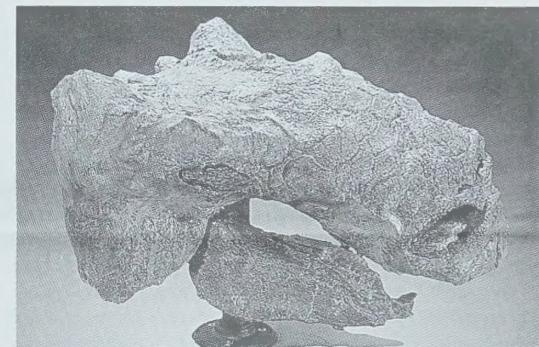
Arbour says this opens the door to new questions.

"How did these three species share their habitat? How did they divide food resources and manage to survive?"

Arbour will also look into how slight differences in skull ornamentation and tail shape between the species influenced the animals' long reign on Earth.

Arbour credits the U of A's vast dinosaur fossil collection with helping to advance her research.

"One of the most important specimens was a Euoplocephalus skull in the university's Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology," she said. "Studying here has also



This ankylosaur skull, part of the vast collection of dinosaur fossils in U of A Museums, was key to Victoria Arbour's breakthrough research.

given me the opportunity to do paleontology fieldwork in Alberta, Mongolia and Argentina."

Arbour's research was published May 8 in the journal *PLOS ONE*. ■

## Database to help rural communities plan for a sustainable future

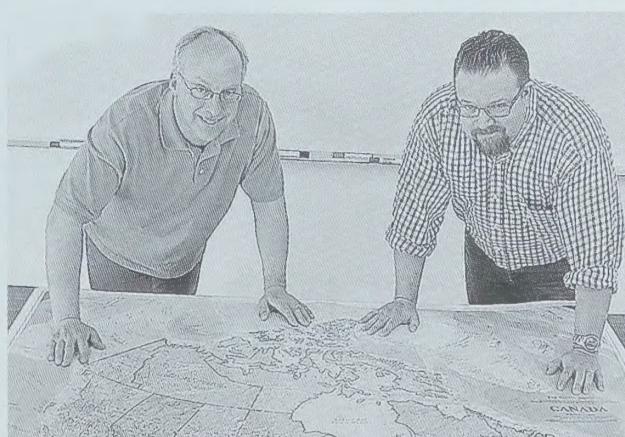
Bev Betkowski

A new database compiled by University of Alberta researchers helps Canada's rural communities make strategic decisions on how to survive, thrive and stay viable.

The Canadian Sustainability Plan Inventory (CSPI) was developed by researchers Lars Hallstrom and Glen Hvenegaard in collaboration with several partners. Since its launch earlier this year, it has had 889 online hits, with 27 per cent of visitors returning for more information.

"We received a lot of phone calls from municipal sustainability officers and administrators when we rolled out this database, saying it was a fantastic idea," said Hallstrom, director of the U of A's Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities.

Drought, uneven crop prices and "urban brain drain" challenge the existence of rural communities, so having a solid plan that pinpoints what is truly important to a community—often from a wide-ranging



Glen Hvenegaard (left) and Lars Hallstrom developed a database of more than 1,000 sustainability plans from rural communities across Canada.

vision—is crucial to making balanced municipal decisions when budgeting precious resources, said Hvenegaard, professor of environmental science and geography at Augustana Campus.

"Some rural communities are surviving on a thread, and sustainability plans provide an opportunity for people to envision the future. The reality is that they often don't

have the next steps articulated within those plans," he said.

The largest and most comprehensive database of its kind in Canada, CSPI is also the only text-searchable one, allowing community planners to see what their neighbours and peers are doing to plan for future economic, social, environmental and governance sustainability, which opens the door

to collaboration and sharing ideas. The database, which is also free and publicly accessible, can be searched using variables such as community size, province and plan type.

"Sustainability plans provide an opportunity for people to envision the future."

Glen Hvenegaard

The CSPI holds more than 1,000 sustainability plans from communities of less than 50,000 people from across Canada, including 199 from Alberta.

Sustainability planning in rural Canada has become particularly important since the Federal Gas Tax Fund made it a key part of overall development for communities, Hallstrom noted. Slated by 2015 to invest about \$13 billion in municipal infrastructure such as transit, waste management, water and green

energy, the fund also gives support to communities to develop integrated community sustainability plans.

"The process of creating a plan for Camrose got the creative juices flowing, and we began to explore the progress of other plans across Canada and making some of them available for other communities to learn from," Hvenegaard said.

"Community planners can use this database as a resource to inform their own programming and sustainability initiatives; they can say, 'look, Hinton did this, Wood Buffalo has done that,'" Hallstrom added. "It saves them a lot of time and energy in trying to find answers in comparable strategies, since they can see what others are doing."

The CSPI project was supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Alberta Rural Development Network, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Canadian Federation of Municipalities, the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities and the University of Alberta. ■

# news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the stories that recently appeared on the ualberta.ca news page. To read more, go to [www.news.ualberta.ca](http://www.news.ualberta.ca).

## Augustana music professor produces his fifth CD

Milton Schlosser, music professor at Augustana Campus, has just released his fifth album. Entitled *1890*, the CD is a cross-cultural exploration that touches on major events that happened in that year.

The CD includes the world premiere recording of *Crowfoot*, a work written for Schlosser in 2010 by U of A graduate and Métis artist Nicholas Howells. A 12-minute work, it contains words attributed to Chief Crowfoot around the time of his death in 1890: "What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the winter-time. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset."

Howells' *Crowfoot* has been performed by Schlosser in Canada, the U.S. and Japan. On June 6, it will be given its European premiere by Schlosser at the Canadian embassy in Berlin.

Other CD highlights include pieces written by Johannes Brahms, a German-speaking composer active at the time of Crowfoot's death. In 1890, at the height of his popularity as a composer and concert pianist, an exhausted Brahms declared that he would compose no more, stating "it is high time to stop." However, he then proceeded to write some of his most beautiful piano works, including the collections Opus 117 and Opus 118.

The CD also includes contributions from two former piano students who studied with Schlosser at the university's Camrose campus—Howells and liner note author Elizabeth Clarke.

The CD is available at Camrose's Candler Art Gallery and at the U of A bookstore. The U of A President's Fund for the Creative and Performing Arts funded the recording.

## Former Pandas soccer star headed to Hall of Fame

The Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame announced former Pandas star Janine Helland (nee Wood) will be inducted into the hall during ceremonies June 1–2.

Helland was a star of the Pandas program from 1990 to 1994, when she was a four-time national all-Canadian midfielder. As a rookie, she helped the Pandas to a national championship win in 1989, being named tournament MVP in the process. That same season she scored a team-best eight goals during the regular season, and finished her varsity career tied for fourth in all-time Pandas scoring history with 22 goals. She was the Canada West Player of the Year in women's soccer, as well as the Edna Bakewell Award winner as the U of A's top female athlete, in 1992 and 1993.

Helland, who was inducted into the U of A's Sports Wall of Fame in 2012, has 47 international caps for Canada and was a member of the FIFA Women's World Cup teams at Sweden 1995 and USA 1999, captaining the latter. She also won a silver medal in two CONCACAF championships and was named Canada's soccer player of the year in 1997.

## Athlete training and research centre unveiled

The Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation unveiled the High Performance Training and Research Centre (HPTRC) May 9.

The HPTRC is a training centre and living laboratory that incorporates the faculty's sport research and sport science expertise with nationally carded athletes, as well as athletes from Golden Bears and Pandas programs, who are continuing their sport development and preparing for elite competition. Athletes will work hand-in-hand with physical conditioning coaches and experts in biomechanics and exercise physiology from the faculty.

At 9,000 square feet, the HPTRC features multiple Olympic weight-lifting sets and platforms, squat cages, pull-up stations and an extensive collection of weights, as well as gymnastic, dynamic, and acceleration mechanics areas, state-of-the-art metabolic conditioning bikes and adapted equipment for para-sport athletes. The centre was opened to athletes in September 2012.

## Golden Bear picked up by Eskimos in CFL draft

Fifth-year Golden Bears football player Smith Wright was drafted by the Edmonton Eskimos in the seventh round, 55th overall, of the 2013 Canadian Football League draft May 6.

Originally from Calgary, the six-foot-two, 220-pound fullback rushed 29 times for 74 yards and three touchdowns in 2012. He has also hauled in 13 receptions for 113 yards and returned a pair of kickoffs for 10 yards.

A student in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, Wright is a dual-sport athlete who also competes for the Golden Bears track and field team, grabbing a silver medal in the shot put in 2012.

Wright is the first Golden Bear to be drafted by a CFL club since kicker Hugh O'Neill was drafted by the BC Lions in 2011, and the third member of the Bears to be drafted by the CFL's Green and Gold since 2001.

# Turning toonies into a cancer retreat

Bryan Alary

**A** University of Alberta researcher wants to take the fight against cancer from the lab to the Rockies and help cancer survivors improve their physical and mental health.

Lisa Bélanger, an exercise physiologist, author and PhD candidate in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, has devoted her life to fighting cancer since she lost her best friend Jane Knight to Hodgkin's lymphoma when they were teens. Now in the home stretch of a PhD studying how exercise affects cancer survival, Bélanger is launching Knight's Cabin, a crowdsourced fundraiser aimed at collecting \$2 million in toonies to create a cancer retreat in Alberta's Rocky Mountains.

The goal is simple: to create a space where cancer survivors can unplug, unwind and focus on what matters most—their health.

Bélanger says Knight's Cabin has been a dream of hers since 2007, when the New Brunswick native first experienced the majesty of the Rocky Mountains.

"I felt my stress level melt away and thought to myself, I'd love to take cancer survivors here, it's such a healing place," she says.

Bélanger says Knight's Cabin will offer survivors the benefit of evidence-based science that shows physical activity has an important role in surviving cancer. The retreat will involve a team of health professionals providing clients with physical fitness assessments so they know their limits—critical after a cancer fight—and will feature a variety of outdoor physical activities, nutritional counselling, and sleep and stress management to help survivors embrace healthy behaviour.

"Cancer survivors are at greater risk for heart disease, diabetes, obesity, recurrence of cancer. All of these behaviours influence those



Lisa Bélanger is using crowdsourcing to find donors willing to kick in a toonie, about the price of one coffee, to help her raise \$2 million to create a Rocky Mountain retreat for cancer survivors.

diseases, so if we can put the focus on health and wellness instead of disease management, we're really helping the health-care system. And for survivors, they can think about making the most of the rest of their lives."

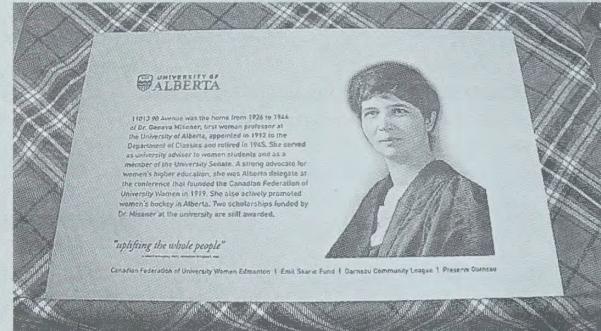
Armed with her research knowledge and an ample dose of passion, Bélanger has turned to crowdsourcing, popularized by companies such as Kickstarter, to raise money to make Knight's Cabin a reality. Her goal is to go to the public and raise \$2 million in toonies—at two dollars apiece, about the price of a cup of coffee—during the six-week campaign.

The concept has also drawn the interest of cancer agencies such

as the Alberta chapter of Ovarian Cancer Canada and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada - Prairies, which are interested in partnering to offer retreats for specific groups of cancer survivors. Bélanger has started the process to register Knight's Cabin as a registered charity and is now in talks with potential partners and scouting locations in the Bow Valley area.

"We have so many more people surviving intensive cancer treatments than ever, but getting better doesn't stop when treatment ends. This isn't just about surviving, it's about thriving."

## A pioneer remembered



On April 28, the U of A and 70 guests unveiled a plaque commemorating Geneva Misener, the U of A's first woman professor and a devoted member of the Garneau community. The plaque will be installed at her former home at 11030 – 90 Ave.

# laurels

**Volodymyr Kravchenko** has been selected as the new director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. Kravchenko, a former professor of history and chair of the Department of Ukrainian Studies at the Vasyl Karazin National University of Kharkiv, has been working with the institute since 2000 as director of the Kowalsky Eastern Ukrainian Institute.

**Heidi Janz**, assistant adjunct professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, was featured on Global's Woman of Vision program May 6. Global Woman of Vision is a television news series that celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of women in the Edmonton area.

# classified ads

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RENT

**CLARIDGE HOUSE** 1105, 11027 – 102 AVENUE. Immaculate 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1,384 sq. ft. home. Sunny Southeast exposure, steps to U of A. 1 underground stall, including utilities. Air conditioned, storage. June 15, 2013. \$2,100/month. 780-437-7363.

**EAST CRESTWOOD**. 5 bedroom, 3 bath. Close to river valley. University, schools, hospitals. \$3,500/month, one year lease minimum. Contact aglowicki@gmail.com.

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SALE

**SPECTACULAR OCEANFRONT HOME NEAR VICTORIA**. Private gated estate, magnificent gardens, unobstructed views of mountains and ocean. Steps to fishing, crabbing, surfing, boating, beach walking. Website: [surfsong.ca](http://surfsong.ca).

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**HOUSE IN VICTORIA**. 4 bedrooms. Expansive ocean views. Large mature garden. Secluded location. Two levels, 3,400 sq. ft. Phone 250-658-4242 or email [cjanssen@telus.net](mailto:cjanssen@telus.net) for photos.

## SERVICES

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## GOODS FOR SALE

**MINKA SALE/OPEN HOUSE**. Exquisite sweaters, shawls, scarves – hand knit by women's cooperative in Bolivia, poorest country in South America. Pure alpaca/pima cotton. ALL PROCEEDS return to knitters. New this year – accessory scarves and children's sweaters! \$25.00 - \$250.00. Buy the gift that gives back. Saturday June 15, 2013. Windsor Park Community Hall, 11840 – 87 Avenue. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Contacts: Linda 780-436-5732 or Jennifer 780-434-8105. [WWW.MINKHASWEATERS.COM](http://WWW.MINKHASWEATERS.COM).

# Hypertension drug may improve schizophrenia symptoms

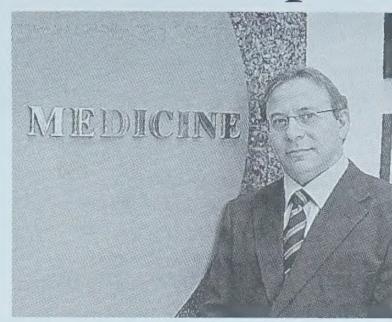
Raquel Maurier

**A**n anti-hypertension drug administered intravenously for a single four-hour treatment resulted in dramatic improvements of symptoms for people living with schizophrenia, according to newly published findings from clinician scientists at the University of Alberta's medical school and their colleagues in Brazil.

The results from the small clinical trial were published May 8 in the peer-reviewed journal, *JAMA Psychiatry*. The study involved 20 people with schizophrenia taking currently available antipsychotic drugs. Ten received placebo

treatments; the other 10 received low doses of the anti-hypertension drug sodium nitroprusside. Those taking the drug, which has been around since the 1800s, experienced dramatic improvements in symptoms, such as fewer hallucinations (episodes of hearing voices), and less anxiety, depression and withdrawal. These improvements lasted for a month.

The small study was conducted at a university teaching hospital in Brazil, where principal investigator James Hallak works. The other principal investigator is Serdar Dursun, a researcher with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry who works in the Department of Psychiatry at the U of A.



Serdar Dursun is co-principal investigator in a small clinical trial showing that a drug originally meant to treat high blood pressure dramatically improved symptoms for people living with schizophrenia.

In previous research in which Dursun was involved, his team saw promising results in lab models given the drug, originally marketed for treating severely high blood pressure. He was curious whether similar results would occur in people and teamed up with a colleague from Brazil to find out.

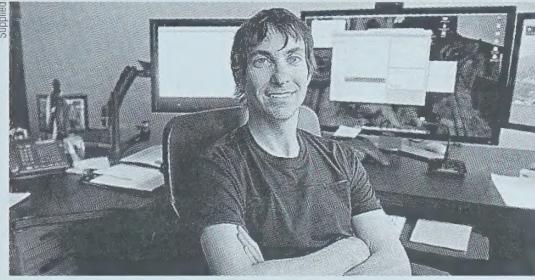
Research team members believe the drug modifies how two chemical messengers in the brain interact.

"This opens a new line of research for the treatment of schizophrenia," says Dursun. "Such rapid improvement of symptoms of schizophrenia could be very important to help patients in acute care and emergency settings."

## Task force findings help doctors know when to screen for depression

Raquel Maurier

**A** national task force led by a University of Alberta researcher is encouraging physicians in Canada to stop conducting routine screening for depression because there's no evidence the practice is beneficial.



Marcello Tonelli led a task force that created new guidelines that recommend less screening for depression.

"If patients have no apparent symptoms, there's no need to screen for depression—we don't need to go looking for it," said Marcello Tonelli, Canadian Task Force on Preventive

Health Care lead, and a Canada Research Chair in the Department of Medicine and the School of Public Health.

Tonelli and his colleagues who worked on the new guideline reviewed research studies from around the world over the course of a year.

"The major finding from our careful and detailed look for evidence is that there was very little evidence either way," he said. "We didn't find a lot of evidence that screening for depression is effective, and we didn't find a lot of evidence that screening isn't effective."

Tonelli said these guidelines are not for patients who are already diagnosed with or being treated for depression, or who have personal histories of depression, but are aimed at helping physicians deal with patients who have no symptoms of depression, including those in high-risk groups who show no symptoms. Patients considered at higher risk for developing depression include those who have experienced traumatic events, those who struggle with substance abuse or chronic health issues, Aboriginal patients, those with family history of depression, and women who are perinatal or postpartum.

"We are also advising doctors that if they see patients with symptoms that suggest depression might be present, such as not making eye contact or noting they are having trouble sleeping, physicians should be alert to that and ask more

questions to determine whether depression is the underlying cause," he said.

A 2002 study noted one in every eight Canadian adults will experience a major depression at some point in their life. Productivity losses stemming from depression amount to \$4.5 billion a year across the country.

Tonelli explained the guideline was revisited because the last recommendation was made in 2005 and needed to be updated, and physicians across the country said they wanted more guidance on the important topic of screening for depression. The 2005 recommendation suggested screening adults in integrated medical settings where various health-care practitioners could help patients manage their treatment, with regular followups.

And if time doesn't need to be spent on screening a patient who has no symptoms of depression, Tonelli says, "it will free up time for physicians to do an even better job of detecting depression in those who are crying out for help, and treating patients who have been diagnosed with depression and who may be currently undertreated."

The systematic review was funded by a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research; the guideline production was funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

## talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and at [www.news.ualberta.ca/events](http://www.news.ualberta.ca/events). A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca). Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

### UNTIL JUNE 29

**U of A Museums present SIZE MATTERS: Big Prints From Around the World.** From miniature to monolithic, artists have been playing with scale for thousands of years. SIZE MATTERS features the work of contemporary printmakers—working in media as diverse as woodcuts and digital prints on fabric—from Canada, the United States, Finland, Japan and beyond, who all have one thing in common: they like to think big. Enterprise Square.

### UNTIL MAY 31

**Miriam Green Ellis, Champion of the West.** This exhibition introduces the work of pioneer woman journalist of Western Canada, Miriam Green Ellis (1879-1964). Through a sampling of the rich diversity of the collection of published newspaper articles, photographs, coloured glass slides, manuscripts, diaries and letters she bequeathed to the University of Alberta, the exhibition invites you to see the way we were as Westerners almost a century ago. Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, Rutherford South.

### UNTIL MAY 23

**U of A Studio Theatre's The Last Days of Judas Iscariot.** The jury is out in this riotously funny, coarse and colourful play by Stephen Adly Guirgis that imagines a trial of God and the Kingdom of Heaven and Earth versus Judas Iscariot for the betrayal of his homey, Lord Jesus

Christ. In a gritty courtroom, between Heaven and Hell, a host of iconic figures, from Mother Teresa to Sigmund Freud to Satan, are called to testify and weigh in on the epic debate between divine mercy and human free will. Not simply about one man's guilt, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* asks us to re-examine who is in the most need of forgiveness. "Between Heaven and Hell" there is another place. This place: Hope. Hope is located right over here in downtown Purgatory. Timms Theatre for the Arts.

### UNTIL MAY 31

**100 Years of Medicine Exhibit.** Come celebrate 100 Years of Medicine through images captured by our staff, students, faculty and alumni. It will be open to the public for viewing during regular library hours. John W. Scott Library.

### MAY 21

**Grant Proposals: How to Write and Argue Effectively.** This workshop will focus attention on how to construct effective arguments when writing proposals to obtain grant funding. We will apply specific strategies derived from examining successful applications to your projects as we move through the workshop. Workshop led by Roger Graves, director of Writing Across the Curriculum. 2-4 p.m. 273 CAB. To register, go to [utregistration.ualberta.ca](http://utregistration.ualberta.ca).

**Principles for Developing Effective Curricular Service-Learning.** This session

will introduce some key principles that underlie effective curricular service learning with a discussion of their basis in sociocultural learning theories. We assume that instructors are interested in thinking about 'what' and 'why' questions related to service learning as well as 'how.' The areas to be discussed include how instructors can support student learning, the role of community partners in learning, and student assessment and evaluation. 2:30-3:30 p.m. L1-190 ECHA. To register, go to [csl.ualberta.ca](http://csl.ualberta.ca).

### MAY 23

**Oil and Business Development.** Leo Wong of EARTH Group will give this talk as part of the Oil and Social Economy Speaker Series—a collaborative event between Community Service-Learning and the Parkland Institute. 7-9 p.m. 1-001 NREF.

### MAY 24

**Communications and Technology Research Symposium.** Following a research poster session, Robin Mansell, professor at the London School of Economics, will give a talk entitled Internet Social Imaginaries: Crowdsourcing, Collective Action and Governance. 1-4:30 p.m. Enterprise Square.

### MAY 29

**TLS Concept and Course Design Series: Teaching Philosophy.** In this workshop, participants will reflect on their beliefs

and values about teaching and the relationship with learning. Participants will be guided to begin articulating a teaching philosophy for use in a teaching dossier or other purpose. 10:30 a.m.-noon. L1-250 ECHA. To register, go to [ct.ualberta.ca](http://ct.ualberta.ca).

### MAY 30

**Oil and Land Development.** Janelle Herbst of Riverbend Gardens, Leonard Leskiw of Paragon Soil & Environmental Consulting and Gord Visser of Norbest Farms will discuss this topic as part of the Oil and Social Economy Speaker Series, a collaborative event between Community Service-Learning and the Parkland Institute. 7-9 p.m. 1-001 NREF.

### MAY 31

**'Medutainment' Catalysts: A Conversation Series on Teaching.** 3M Teaching Award winner Sarah Forgie will be on hand to demonstrate a teaching approach she calls "Medutainment." The principles behind Medutainment are simplify the message, involve your learners, take creative risks, evaluate and refine frequently. This approach is highly engaging and includes the Enteric jazz band and the Strep throat ukulele song. This is the third of a monthly series of conversations with U of A teaching award winners on their trials and triumphs in teaching. Lead by the award winners themselves, the series is meant

to provide a forum for celebration, conversation and reflection about teaching practices. 1-2 p.m. L1-420 ECHA.

### MAY 31

**Retirement Celebration.** The annual Retirement Celebration recognizes all faculty and staff who have retired or will retire within the 2013 calendar year. For more information, please contact [sarah.flower@ualberta.ca](mailto:sarah.flower@ualberta.ca). 3-6 p.m. Maple Leaf Room, Lister Conference Centre.

### UNTIL JUNE 8

**InSight 2: Engaging the Health Humanities.** InSight 2 explores how we can engage the health humanities to help us work collaboratively across disciplines and communities, to imagine and design innovative and transformative processes, communications, products, environments, services and experiences that can help to promote our health and well-being. FAB Gallery.

### JUNE 2

**Women's Words Opening Reception.** Eunice Scarfe, inaugural Women's Words instructor, will give a talk entitled Strong Women/Strong Words: 20 Years of Writing. The talk will be followed by readings from the Women's Words 20th Anniversary Anthology. Hosted by Janice Williamson and Shirley Serviss. 5-7 p.m. 2-922 Enterprise Square.

*the*  
*BackPage*



# UNSCENE

A LOOK BEHIND THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT



PHOTOGRAPHY  
RICHARD SIEMENS

The creation of a play, from inspiration to opening night and everything in between, consists of a seemingly endless checklist of duties. Here's a peek behind the curtain of Studio Theatre's final 2012-13 production, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* by Stephen Adly Guirgis.

Pictured above are (from top) Jamie Plummer, MFA theatre designer; Jessica Parr, stage manager; and Plummer with Simon Bloom, MFA director.

